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AMERICANA MAGAZINE.

The Americana for June, just at hand, contains chapters XXII and XXIII of "History of the Mormon Church," by President Brigham H. Roberts, covering "Development of the Work in Ohio," and "The Expulsion of the Saints from Jackson County, Mo." The author enters fully into the circumstances that led to this catastrophe, deplorable under any conditions, but exceedingly so under the flag that is a symbol of human freedom and equal rights.

The Saints in Missouri were accused, as President Roberts in his interesting narrative makes clear, of being "poor, lazy, and vicious;" also of claiming to have received direct revelations from God; to have the gift of healing the sick, speaking in tongues, and "to perform all the wonder-working miracles wrought by the inspired apostles and prophets of God." There were some other charges, the most serious of which undoubtedly was that the land of Jackson County had been given to the Saints for an inheritance. Such were the charges made by a motley mob, addicted to Sabbath-breaking, profanity, horse-racing, idleness, and drunkenness. They were either trivial, or wholly untrue. And yet, the expulsion was affected with fiendish glee.

It is remarkable that "healing by faith" was one of the sins laid at the door of the Saints. Today there are numerous societies and individuals devoting themselves to the vindication of that principle. But at that time, the Missourians wanted to know, among other things: "What would be the fate of our lives and property in the hands of jurors and witnesses who do not blush to declare, and would not, upon occasion, hesitate to swear, that they have wrought miracles, and have been the subjects of miraculous and supernatural cures?" They had an idea that their lives and property would be in danger in the hands of men who believed in healing by faith. They also had an idea that the Saints intended to get land without paying for it, and that was their chief trouble, although no such intention ever entered into their hearts.

Another fact is worthy of note. It has often been charged against the Saints of Nauvoo, that they were enemies of a free press because they destroyed the printing outfit of the most infamous sheet of paper ever printed under the American flag, although it was done in a perfectly orderly manner, and by the proper legal authorities; but those who declaim against the procedure of the Nauvoo city council in the matter, never have a word of censure of the Missouri mob that surrounded the printing office of W. W. Phelps and forced Mrs. Phelps, with a sick infant in her arms, out of their home and then destroyed the printing press and also the books, and the furniture, and razed to the ground both the printing office and the home of W. W. Phelps. And this did not satisfy the rapacity of that mob, but the destruction was continued by an attack upon the mercantile establishment of Gilbert, Whitney & Co. All this was done without legal procedure, and without provocation of any kind. But the enemies of the Church say nothing of this. In fact, generally they endorse, or condone, such excesses when the Saints are the victims.

The history of these persecutions is well told in the Americana, and is worth reading by all, not for the sake of keeping the fires of animosity burning, but to learn the lessons such experiences should convey, and these lessons all need to learn.

Other features of the June number of this Magazine are: "Lord Timothy Dexter. An Eccentric Pre-Revolutionary Character," by S. R. Knapp; "The Story of the Public Lands," by Fred Dennett, Commissioner of the General Land Office; "The Great Amherst Mystery," by Hereward Carrington; "The Scot in New England and the Maritime Provinces," part I, by John Calder Gordon; "A Hero of Bennington and Bunker Hill—John Stark," by Hon. Moody Currier, late Governor of New Hampshire; "Early Attempts at Storm Prediction," by Julia Alcott Lapham; "Heraldic Considerations," by Viscount de Fronsac; and "Historical Views and Reviews."

CARNEGIE HEROES.

The report of the Carnegie Hero fund commission, dated Jan. 31, this year, has just been received. It contains a list of officers and members, the Deed of Trust signed by Carnegie, and the acceptance thereof by the commission; resolutions presented to Carnegie, by-laws, regulations; a list of acts of heroism, amounting to 336; and a list of disasters, five in all. The acts of heroism rewarded do not represent all such acts, however. The Commission has had application for no less than 3,494 rewards, although only 336 have been granted. Since the fund was established in 1904, nearly 5,000 cases of heroism, so called, have been brought to the commission's attention, there being about 800 pending. Deeds of gallantry are done every day in the United States, according to these statistics. But comparatively few, it seems, involve that degree of actual peril to the life saver which is requisite for the award of a Carnegie medal. We have little doubt, however, that a great deal of heroism goes unrewarded, for the very reason that the true hero, who, on the spur of the moment, risks his life for a fellow-being, does not always realize that he is doing something heroic. Heroism comes natural to the true hero.

The commission's medals are of three grades, gold, silver and bronze; and but 13 gold medals have been awarded. Of silver medals awarded, there have been 148, and of bronze 175. Rescues from drowning have won no less than 206 of the 336 medals thus far granted. Many bronze and silver medals have been granted on account of simple rescues of drowning bathers in mill ponds and placid streams. The 13 gold-medal cases on record are due to four single episodes—the rescue of the passengers and crew of the wrecked steamer Cherokee in a furious gale off Atlantic City, January 14, 1906, by a schooner captain and six men; the rescue of Jacob Flyter from a leaky tunnel under the Milwaukee river, April 30, 1906; the rescue of eight passengers of the sunken steamer Larchmont by a volunteer crew off Block Island, February 12, 1907, and the rescue of a man from a cave-in at Pierceville, Kan., November 26, 1906, by Andrew J. Hedger, the county superintendent of schools.

There are some women and children among the heroes.

"Albert Guildoo, aged 14, schoolboy, rescued Minnie M. Lowers, aged 13, from a mad dog, Wampum, Pa., March 16, 1909. Failing to make the dog let go the girl's leg by kicking it, Guildoo grabbed it by the neck with both hands and pulled it from her, being bitten himself on the left wrist. Both recovered after treatment."

Albert got a bronze medal.

"Marie V. B. Langdon, aged 30, housewife, saved Sophie, Henry L. and Estella M., and attempted to save Gertrude S. Jacques, aged 21, 4, 1 and 2, respectively, from freezing, Telma, Wash., January 11, 1907. With the thermometer 14 degrees below zero and the snow six feet deep, Mrs. Langdon, without snowshoes, went 600 feet from her home, on hearing cries for help, and met Mrs. Jacques and two of her children, only partly dressed, who had fled from their burning home. She relieved the woman of her baby, and carried it to her home, followed by the mother; returned and got Henry; and then struggled through the snow about three-quarters of a mile, where Gertrude was found, the mother having been compelled to abandon her, after having removed the only skirt she wore and wrapped it around the child. When Mrs. Langdon had carried Gertrude half-way back to the house, she discovered she was dead, and as her own strength was fast failing, she was compelled to abandon the child and was barely able to reach home herself."

She got only a silver medal.

So far the income of the fund exceeds the expenditures. The Commission might be more liberal in its awards in the future.

ETHICS OF SPARROW-KILLING.

Partly because it is a bird, and especially because it is so frequently mentioned in the Scriptures, some people have rightly inquired into the ethics of sparrow destruction, recently recommended in these columns.

Is it right to kill one of the birds honored in the sacred record by the words of the Savior? "Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings? and not one of them is forgotten in the sight of God." These words prove, however, that the sparrows of Palestine were regularly killed and used for food; and since it is only a question of either destruction of the imported sparrows or the exile of the native birds and the loss of our crops, we have no other alternative, at present, than to lessen the numbers of this the meanest and lowest of the sparrow family.

Certainly young boys should not be encouraged or permitted to kill them. Such occupation soon gives to a boy the killing habit, and he fails to discriminate between the sparrow and the useful and worthy native birds. Moreover, as we have said before, a boy who has wrung the necks of say fifty nestling sparrows, or has robbed the nests of these birds, is not precisely the same boy that he was before the commission of such deeds. He has been brutalized and lowered in his sympathies and in the finer elements of character; and the soul of one boy is of more value than many sparrows. Besides, all the sparrows except this one have a preponderance of good traits and of habits useful to ourselves.

In its true home, which was probably Arabia, the various sparrows were beneficial birds, and were extensively used for food, and there is today no good reason why English sparrows, when trapped or shot, should not be utilized for food in this country, as they have been in the Old World for centuries. Their flesh is palatable and nutritious, and in city restaurants they are often served under the name of reed birds.

Sparrows are frequently mentioned in holy writ; these plain little brown birds of domestic habit and fearless disposition must have been numerous in the land of Palestine, filling the bushes and trees of every tiller of the soil with their lively chatter. Pliny, the Roman writer, mentions the neat little hop with which the sparrows travel on foot, and the beautiful nest and cleanly habit of the kind he describes. From Galilee to the sea coast, various sparrows nested in thorn and bramble bushes, others in the grass, the vineyards, and the trees; and "while the women cultivated their onions, beans, mandrakes, lentils, melons, and cucumbers, the busy little sparrow nested among the small bushes or on the gourd and grape vines covering the arbors and houses." They claimed also the shelter of the temple for their nests; and the Bible makes it evident that all temple birds were protected when around houses. However, "out in the valleys, among the foothills, in the bramble and thorn thickets, the sparrows flocked and were snared and netted without mercy. And this," continues Mrs. Porter, in her "Birds of the Bible," "was the basis of the reason why they so love to build and find food near homes. Further south, in Judea, the climate and location was not so congenial. There they did not flock, but were found in pairs. Today in the Jordan Valley the thorn trees can be seen to be almost weighted down with nests, and sparrows are taken in the greatest numbers for food, so that it is a truly wise bird that finds a home for herself. If it is the home of people, she is always sure of safety. If it is the house of the Lord, then, indeed, she has a refuge." As David said of them: "Yea, the sparrow hath found her a house, even thine altars, O Lord of hosts."

Of course, the house sparrow has some value. Nature teachers hold that at least one use can be made of this sparrow, that, namely, of studying it in the elementary schools.

The unsightly nest and the places chosen for it; the harsh and discordant notes and chatter that take the place of bird-song; the quarrelsome habits of the bully, thief, and robber; the food, including the eggs of other birds, the fruit and buds of orchard and garden, the grain of fields and hen yards, the undigested remnants in horse manure, etc. This last trait makes the street-gamin bird of some use by preventing the breeding of house flies. The labored flight, the hop, the cunning, etc., of this bird may then be contrasted with the greater beauty and usefulness of the native sparrow. For this purpose pages 31 and 32 of Farmers' Bulletin No. 54, "Some Common Birds," sent free, and all of the "Relation of Sparrows to Agriculture," sent for 15 cents by the Department of Agriculture, Division of Publications, Washington, D. C., may be consulted to advantage.

It will surprise many people to be told that while they have often noticed the sparrow, very few have really seen it; and probably not one in a hundred has noted more than half of the following obvious and obstrusive characteristics of this common bird: The stout, stocky form; the very stout, heavy bill, the side outlines bulging to near the end; the pointed wing, short tail, and small feet; the adult male with lores, throat and chest-patch black, rest of under parts grayish, top of head and ear coverts grayish, with bright chestnut patches between eye and nape; wing with chestnut patch and two white bands; rest of upper parts dull brown, back streaked with black; under parts dull gray. The female lacks the black tie, having the entire under parts brownish white or gray; crown and hind neck grayish brown or olive; back browner than in the male. Length from 5.6 to 6.25 inches.

To observe the sparrow closely is a sort of education in accurate perception, and is recommended as the first step for all who desire to become acquainted with the other birds about them.

Insurgency is a condition and not a theory.

A collector of customs— an archeologist.

The Russo-Chinese bank also says, "Beware of Widers."

Oyster Bay is becoming a regular Delphi for politicians.

It is astonishing how long some politicians' last legs last.

When an automobile turns turtle the occupants are "in the soup."

According to Senator Bristow, Senator Aldrich is a wolf in cotton schedule clothing.

The very cleanest money can be tainted, and the dirtiest money clean.

Mr. Bryan's battle cry now appears to be, "Give me county option or give me death."

Scientists are as much at sea as to the age of Mother Earth as people are to the age of Ann.

So far not even the professional baggage smashers have been able to smash the Grand Trunk.

Interesting as is the cruise of the Mayflower, still more interesting is the "Cruise of the Cachelot."

Mr. Berger thinks that Mr. Jeffries should come back. If he could it would only be as a back number.

Booker T. Washington is doing the negroes more good but John Arthur Johnson is doing them more proud.

"Bud" Rogers, the self-confessed accomplice in the Oregon Short Line train robbery at Ogden on June 27, doth confess too much, in the opinion of the sheriff's office at Boise.

General Fred Grant says that the United States has the best big guns in the world. What a soporific influence the statement must have on Uncle Sam's over wrought nerves.

Professor Goodyear, curator of the Brooklyn museum of art, has just returned from a visit to Pisa, where he made a thorough and exhaustive study of the famous leaning tower. He says he is certain that it was built to lean. It is still more certain that it was built to stand.

Senator Norris Brown (stand-pat regular) in his speech as temporary chairman of the Republican convention of Nebraska, patted the Nebraska "insurgents" on the back for their course on the Payne-Aldrich bill. It was a fine, deft thing to do, like a soft answer turning away wrath.

HUGO AND GARIBALDI.

Sunday at Home.

Visitors to Guernsey are sometimes able to see Hauteville, where Victor Hugo, the French poet, lived and died. In his house is a handsomely furnished room, which was specially prepared by Victor Hugo for Garibaldi ,the emancipator of Italy, who had promised to be his guest. Everything which Victor Hugo thought Garibaldi would appreciate was placed in this room. But Garibaldi changed his plans and never visited Hauteville. Today the room has a pathetic interest, prepared for the guest who never came.

MEN'S LOVE LETTERS AND WOMEN'S.

New York World.

Suits by disconsolate Romeos to recover damages for breach of promise are rare. Yet under a real equality of the sexes would not women of mature years who trifle with the affections of youth be liable? But the interesting feature of the Stamford case is the exceptional quality of the defendant's letters. "Brunhilde's" epistles to her "geliebter Siegfried" are full of lively banter and a serio-comic love-making which render them wholly delightful reading. She chaffs her lover on his love poems, which are "absolute luxuries" to her, whether "original or extracted;" she wishes she could be alone with him "for five dark moments;" sends her "darlint" a "swate kiss" and asks him to "luf me a little;" signs herself "always and unto ashes thine," and illustrates her emotions with remarque sketches worthy of a Whistler. The writer is slangy, affectionate, ardent, whimsical, by turns, but never dull and at no point is she maudlin or mawkish.

IDA'S IDEA OF DENVER.

Chicago Record-Herald.

Three weeks ago Ida Thompson, a young woman residing in that part of New York known as the Bronx, wrote to the postmaster of Denver that she wanted a cowboy husband. She added that she was heiress to $48,000. She has received a thousand letters—not all from cowboys—offering marriage, and her sorely tried parents have burned several hundred photographs in the parlor stove. The girl's father explains that the letter was only a joke, that his daughter is not heiress even for 48 cents, and asks that the deluge be stopped. He says that foolish, romantic Ida thought the letter would be tacked up in the postoffice at Denver, that the cowboys would see it when they rode into town, and that it would be the means of relieving the tedium of their dreary lives. The west has had frequent cause to complain of the noncomprehension of the east, and the young romantic of the Bronx gives it cause for one complaint the more. Her conception of Denver as a remote and forlorn cow town, with the postoffice (and general store) as the sole social center, will affect Colorado keenly.

MAKING A CITY'S HISTORY.

Boston Transcript.

The public library of every town, according to Josiah H. Benton, whose experience in library management gives him a right to speak, should contain a town scrapbook, in which every article, paragraph and item that appears in any newspaper in regard to that municipality should be carefully gathered. In that way a surprisingly good local history will gradually grow up. When the time comes for an actual written history this material will be of great direct and suggestive value. He would have the librarian keep a scrapbook and either through an arrangement with a press clippings bureau or by personal attention to it see that every such allusion to the town finds its way into the reservoir. This is a suggestion of very large merit. Those who adopt it will have occasion to congratulate themselves in the future upon their foresight, and they wil make many inquirers and investigators of coming years their debtors.

JUST FOR FUN

Logical.

"Mother,' 'asked little Ethel, "now that you're in mourning for Cousin Adelaide, will you wear black nightdresses, too?"

"What an absurd question child!"

"Oh, I only thought you might be as sorry at night as you were during the day," ventured Ethel.—Harper's Bazar.

Three's a Crowd.

Wife—Mother says she refuses to pay us a visit unless we let her pay her board.

Hubby—Tell her we couldn't think of such a thing.—Cleveland Leader.

Following Mother's Instructions.

"Johnnie."

"Yes'm."

"Why are you sitting on that boy's face?"

"Why, I—"

"Did I not tell you always to count a hundred before you gave way to passion and struck another boy?"

"Yes'm, and I'm doin' it; I'm just sittin' on his face so he'll be here when I'm done countin' the hundred.—Houston Post.

Why He Declined.

The Boss—Jimmy, wouldn't you like to get off this afternoon and take in the ball game?

Office Boy—No sir.

The Boss (in surprise)—Why not?

Office Boy—Cause there ain't no game this afternoon.—Chicago News.

"Automobiling is a fine sport, isn't it?" "Yes; but it is the fines which makes it so expensive."—Baltimore American.

Won't ye please help me, mister? I ain't had nothin' t'eat in t'ree days." The Dyspeptic—"Gad! I wish I hadn't!"—Life.

Polly—"I wonder how Cholly manages to keep that wide-brimmed straw on in wind like this?" Dolly—"Vacuum pressure."—Judge.

The Admiral—"How many couples have you spliced on occasion?" The Bishop— "Oh, as many as 20 in two hours." The Admiral—"Ha! A speed of 10 knots an hour!"—Puck.

"He seems to lack the sense of humor." "Why do you think so?" "I pulled his chair away when he was about to sit down and he treated me as if I had been totally unworthy of respect."—Chicago Record-Herald.

Territorial (his first experience as sentry, going over his instructions)—"If any one comes along, I say 'Halt! Who goes there?' Then he says, 'Friend; all's well.' But some silly ass'll say 'Enemy,' and then I shan't know what to do. Rotten Job, I call it."—Punch.